



## Fall Protection in General Industry

Falls are among the most common causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths. Employers must take measures in their workplaces to prevent employees from falling off overhead platforms, elevated work stations or into holes in the floor and walls.

### To prevent employees from being injured from falls, employers must:

- Guard every floor hole into which a worker can accidentally walk by use of a railing and toeboard or a floor hole cover.
- Provide a guardrail and toeboard around every open-sided platform, floor or runway that is 4 feet or higher off the ground or next level.
- Regardless of height, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment (such as a vat of acid or a conveyor belt), employers must provide guardrails and toeboards to prevent workers from falling and getting injured.
- Other means of fall protection that may be required on certain jobs include safety harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and handrails.



Raised platform with protected guardrail.

### OSHA requires employers to:

- Provide working conditions that are free of known dangers.
- Keep floors in work areas in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Select and provide required personal protective equipment at no cost to workers.
- Train workers about job hazards in a language that they can understand.

### You have a right to a safe workplace.

If you have questions about workplace safety and health, call OSHA at 1-800-321-6742.

**It's confidential.**

We can help!

For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

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